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## U.S. Planning Satellite to Spy On Laser Weapons in Soviet

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WASHINGTON, July 10 — Representative George E. Brown Jr., Democrat of California, said today that both chambers of Congress had approved a program for a new spy satellite that could detect Soviet ground-based laser weapons.

Mr. Brown was the sponsor of a measure passed by the House last month that would ban testing of antisatellite weapons and was a participant in recent House-Senate conference sessions on funds for antisatellite weapons. He said the new reconnaissance satellite would probably be launched later this decade by the space shuttle. From low orbit, he said, it would be able to watch Soviet ground-based lasers that could attack American satellites.

The Reagan Administration has asserted that the Soviet Union might soon test a laser antisatellite weapon at the Sary Shagan proving ground in the central Soviet Union.

Mr. Brown's remarks at a press luncheon provided a rare glimpse into one of the Government's most secret programs. Although reconnaissance satellites are well known in military-industrial circles, the Department of Defense routinely declines all comment on their existence.

Mr. Brown held the luncheon to discuss an international conference on the militarization of space held at the University of Gottingen, West Germany, last weekend. He said European concern about a Soviet-American arms race in space was as high as about nuclear weapons based on Earth.

Mr. Brown said the reconnaissance satellites, such as the KH-11 series developed by the Central Intelligence Agency, were "the most expensive

satellites we put up," valued at several hundred million dollars apiece.

On the budget for a United States antisatellite weapon, Mr. Brown said the House-Senate conference was heading for a compromise that would adopt the House spending ceiling for the fiscal year 1985, about \$20 million lower than the \$226 million approved by the Senate, but would retain Senate arms control language, which is weaker than the ban on testing in the House bill.

The Senate version of the bill merely requires the President to certify that the United States is working in good faith to negotiate an agreement with the Soviet Union on antisatellite weapons.

The Air Force is scheduled to test its antisatellite weapon against an artificial target in space this fall. In preliminary experiments it fired the device toward an imaginary point in the heavens.

Meanwhile, a Pentagon source familiar with the antisatellite weapon program said today that the Air Force was seeking fewer of the weapons for 1986 than originally planned by the Administration. Procurement of the rockets, which are carried aloft by F-15 jet fighters and then launched directly at enemy satellites in low orbit, was set at \$128.9 million for the 1986 fiscal year. But the Air Force would like to cut the number in half, perhaps to as few as 20 rockets.

The McDonnell-Douglas F-15 acts as the first stage of the antisatellite rocket, with a Boeing short-range attack missile as the second stage. The third stage, built by the Vought division of LTV Aerospace, contains a heat-seeking device that is attracted to the target satellite.